



PARISH OF GREAT BERKHAMSTED

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 8pm

MINUTES

Attendance: Fr Stuart Owen (Chair), Julian Dawson (Secretary), Mark Grego (Churchwarden), Olivia Davies (minutes) Christopher Green, Alan Conway, Allison McMunn, Astrid Biddle, Carole Dell, Caroline Charman, David Northcote, Richard Currie, Richard Hackworth, Jon Lee, Pru Murray.

1. Prayers led by Fr Stuart Owen
2. Apologies: Tim Hennessey, Fr Joe Roberts and Hilary Elliot
NB: Any Safeguarding queries to HE.
3. Notification of matters for consideration under Any Other Business
 - a) Appointment of Castle Federation governor
 - b) Word of thanks
4. Approval of Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 14th July 2020 - Approved
5. Matters Arising - None
6. Standing Committee Reports – None
7. Committee/Group Reports
 - Finance
Report circulated prior to the meeting.

AC queried the total expenditure on ASH. RH confirmed £20,200, for this calendar year, does include substantial work (replacing gutters, new boiler) and the building is now almost ready to go on the market for letting. RH and the PCC expressed their gratitude to Michael Anderson for the thorough work he has put into this project.

- Buildings Committee
Report circulated prior to meeting.

Quinquennial inspection September 2020, concentrated on the roof, tower and the void above the Lady Chapel. Inspector was notified of several leaks in the building (including one that is fixed to the roof and water ingress coming in). Waiting for the report from Phil.

October 2020 – Fire safety assessment on Courthouse and Church (inc. tower), waiting for report. Whilst the crime prevention officer did not push for a roof alarm, in order to be covered by our insurance we need to have the roof sheets marked with Smart Water and a roof alarm installed. There is a £2,500 grant available from Herts and Beds Historic Churches but this is only available once we have Smart Water applied and a roof alarm installed.

Buildings Committee have obtained two quotations for roof alarms, detailed in the Buildings Committee minutes. MG recommends Ace Defence CCTV system: small unit, wireless camera. Either provide an electrical supply at the top of the tower or they can be battery powered (last 2 years) therefore low impact on electricity resources. MG has checked on Diocesan website and does not think we need a faculty/planning permission. JL queried the reputable status of the CCTV company, AC suggested we can trust the insurance's recommendation. MG reassured there is examples of Church case studies on the website.

SO stressed that without both Smart Water and the alarm our insurance means nothing and suggests PCC delegate to Buildings Committee to go ahead with this work. Applying Smart Water should be a quick process (matter of weeks) therefore beneficial to push on with that.

Action: Contact EIG to supply local contractors.

3D scan of the interior of the Church (David Cook) – really impressive and something we can put a link to on our website. MG added when we engage with contractors in the future they can use this to take measurements.

RH – Court House Cottage phase 1A. Whilst planning permission has been obtained for this, there is difficulty finding an available contractor. The current tenancy runs out on 4th December and as work will not be able to start until March 2021, at the earliest, if the current tenants want to extend the tenancy the PCC will do this.

Action: RH to extend tenancy agreement.

Thank you to the buildings committee for their work.

- Pastoral Committee
Zoom meeting on 19/10/2020. Discussed those on the Pastoral Network, All Souls Requiem on the 1st November and those who would like to be prayed for.

People are not being visited but regular contact is being made through telephone calls. People still wary of returning to Church and the Pastoral Committee are very understanding that this will be a gradual process.

SO expressed his thanks to Philippa and the Pastoral Committee for the work and care they give.

8. 800th Anniversary
Imperative that we keep in mind this is a Celebration and when we stop having fun we should stop doing it. It is a celebration of a historic building and a strong community of people, therefore invite people to be a part of the celebrations... We're having a party in 2022, what do you want to do? Come and be part of it! PCC of St Peter's are there to facilitate other activities in the Church (music, art, talks/lectures). SO encouraged members of the PCC to speak to their respective social committees and activity groups and spark conversations about this momentous event. Suggestion to send an email/letter to other groups in the town and invite them to a service in December (increase awareness and appreciation of the building).

Reflective Space: Statement of Significance and Need to the Diocese, who stressed the need for good security and disabled seating/access but approved the work to go ahead. Stephen Lally will go back to the designs with the architect to discuss and embellish original designs. PM has a strong sense that the Friends of St Peter's would like to be involved in this project and after the success of the cemetery it would be beneficial to have their expertise. MG expressed concern at the consequences of a well-lit Churchyard, SO confirmed the PCC will approve the architecture plans when finalised.

9. Dates of future meetings – to note

2021

23rd February

tbc APCM

11th May

15th June

19th October

16th November

2022

22nd February

10. Date of Next Meeting – **25th October APCM; PCC 17th November**

11. Any Other Business:

a) School governor nomination

Dennis Carlton – has been recruited on the basis that there is a specific skillset he brings that will be helpful in the medium term, he has been sitting in on the governing body for the last few months.

SO proposed, JD seconded. All in favour of the nomination.

SO has spoken to Jenny Jenkins (Chair of Governors), Rob Halls (exec Head) and Belinda Copson (Diocesan Governance Officer) and they have confirmed this is the policy for electing governors. However in the future SO suggests the PCC be more proactively involved in nominating a governor. AM wholeheartedly agrees with this.

SO suggested a drinks reception as a vote of thanks for the work the governors do.

b) Word of thanks

Extended thanks to those leaving the PCC: Richard Currie, John Gerry, Alison McMunn and David Northcott and to Carole Dell stepping down as Deanery Synod Rep.

12. The Grace